



# Backcountry Basics



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***You can help** the marbled murrelet by not leaving trash at the trailhead or at your camp. Ravens, jays, and crows, attracted by trash, end up flying over areas where murrelets nest on old-growth limbs. Once these corvids arrive, they stay, eventually finding the murrelet's nest. At that point, they eat the eggs and chicks of a declining species. Thank you for giving this robin-sized seabird the chance to survive in the ancient forest.*

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## Hiking

Nearly 200 miles of walking and hiking trails await you in Redwood National and State Parks. The trails range in difficulty from easy walks to strenuous backpacks. The trails also traverse a wide variety of natural habitats, including old-growth coast redwood forests, mixed evergreen forests, coastal scrub, prairies,

streams, marshes, and unspoiled beaches. More than 60 walks and hikes are described in Redwood Park Association's *Trail Guide*. Other booklets and maps may be purchased at visitor centers. Be sure to ask park staff any questions. Here are some of the parks' more popular backpacking trails, south to north:

- *Redwood Creek Trail* - 8 miles one way
- *West Ridge Trail to Ossagon Creek* - 7½ miles one trip
- *Coastal Trail: Flint Ridge section* - 4½ miles one way
- *Coastal Trail: DeMartin section* - 6 miles one way
- *Coastal Trail: Last Chance section* - 6 miles one way
- *Little Bald Hills Trail* - 5 miles one way

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## Backpacking

Overnight camping is permitted only in designated primitive campsites. Camping is also permitted on the Redwood Creek gravel bar beyond the first seasonal bridge and no closer than ¼ mile of Tall Trees Grove. Obtain your backcountry overnight permit from

one of the park visitor centers. Permits are not required for *Nickel Creek, DeMartin, Flint Ridge, or Little Bald Hills*. A fee is charged for staying at backcountry campsites within Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park.

# Horseback Riding

Horses are welcome on *Little Bald Hills Trail* (access from Howland Hill Road), *\*Mill Creek Horse Trails* (access from Bertsch Avenue off of Howland Hill Road), and *Orick Horse Trails* (ask at a visitor center for access). *Orick Horse Trails* consist of four loop trails and two designated stock sites. *Little Bald Hills* has a corral for overnight horse use. *Mill Creek*

is day use only. Any overnight stay requires a backcountry permit available free from a park visitor center. Feed for stock must be in the form of pellets or certified weed-free feed. Walk your mount when approaching any group of hikers or riders.  
\*There are two winter closures on Mill Creek. Please pick up a handout at a visitor center.

## Regulations

Pets, firearms, motorized vehicles, and hunting are prohibited on park trails. Mushroom gathering or collecting is illegal. Fires are permitted in designated fire pits only (except on Redwood Creek gravel bars). Permits are required for

overnight camping at most sites. Proper food storage while in bear country is required by law. **You may obtain food storage cannisters at Kuchel Visitor Center.** Stay limit is five consecutive days, 15 days per calendar year. Eight people per site.

## Backcountry Sites — Pack Out What You Pack In!

### Little Bald Hills Camp

**Sites: 5**

**Trail length to campsite:** about 3½ miles. Hike, bike, or horse access from Howland Hill Road. No fee. Picnic tables, fire pits, bear proof lockers, toilet, corral. Bring water.

**Port-Orford-cedar ALERT!**  
Port-Orford-cedars along this trail are dying due to a root-rot fungus. The disease travels through flowing water. If you or your horse walk in the mud, scrape the mud off and change into a different pair of shoes. Thoroughly wash mud off any shoes, equipment, or tires.

### Miners Ridge Hike/ Bike Camp

**Sites: 3**

Various trail lengths possible for hiking; access via Miners Ridge begins at the Prairie Creek Visitor Center. Bicycle access **only** from Gold Bluffs section of Coastal Trail. Picnic tables, fire pits, bear proof lockers, toilet. Bring water or treat from creek. **Obtain permit and pay fee at Prairie Creek entrance station.**

### Nickel Creek Camp

**Sites: 5**

**Trail length to campsite:** ½ mile. Hiking access via Coastal Trail at the end of Enderts Beach Road. Picnic tables, fire pits, bear proof lockers, toilet. Bring water or treat from creek. No fee.

### DeMartin Camp

**Sites: 10**

**Trail length to campsite:** 3 miles. Hiking access from Coastal Trail at milepost 15.6 on Highway 101 or at DeMartin Redwood Youth Hostel. Picnic tables, fire pits, bear proof lockers, toilet. Bring water. No fee.

### Ossagon Creek Hiker/ Biker Camp

**Sites: 3**

Various trail lengths possible for hiking; access via several trails which begin at the Prairie Creek Visitor Center. Bicycle access from Gold Bluffs Beach section of Coastal Trail or Prairie Creek Visitor Center. Picnic tables, fire pits, bear proof lockers. Bring in water. **Obtain permit and pay fee at Prairie Creek entrance station.**

### Flint Ridge Camp

**Sites: 11**

**Trail length to campsite:** Hiking access 4½ miles via Coastal Trail at Douglas Memorial Bridge or ½ mile via Coastal Drive. Picnic tables, fire pits, bear proof lockers, toilet. Bring water. No beach access. No fee.

### Gold Bluffs Beach Environmental Camp

Hike and bike access from Davison Road. Picnic tables, fire pits, toilet, bear pole. Bring water. **Obtain permit and pay fee at Prairie Creek entrance station.**

### Elam and 44 Camps

**Sites: 3 and 4**

Two stock camps accessed from Orick Horse Trails. Picnic tables, fire pits, bear proof lockers, toilet. Bring in water. No fee. **Permit (free) required.**  
**\*\*44 Camp closed to stock until further notice. Backpackers welcome. No water.\*\***

These parks are natural environments; the wild animals, plants, streams, and other natural features, as well as certain weather conditions that occur here, can be hazardous. Coastal areas present dangers associated with cold ocean waters, heavy surf, strong currents, changing tides, and tsunamis.

